

March 10, 2023

Senate Bill 1148 - **AA Authorizing Certain Killing and Hunting of Black Bear and Prohibiting Bird Feeders and Other Unintentional and Intentional Feeding of Potentially Dangerous Animals**

SUPPORT

Honorable Chairs, Co-Chairs and Ranking Members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Melanie Attwater-Young. **I SUPPORT SB 1148.** I hold a degree in Natural Resource Development majoring in Wildlife Management from the University of Rhode Island. My work in Wildlife Management was primarily data collection and analysis conducted both in the field and the lab. I have:

- Volunteered for CT Audubon
- Been employed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), RI Dept. of Environmental Management (DEM) and the former CT Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) now known as Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

Since 2016 I have been urging my state representatives and state senators to pass a black bear hunt based upon sound, science based wildlife management practices. There have been many instances of livestock, pet attacks by bear and now a human incident in October 2022. DEEP has the data.

I was then and continue to remain steadfast in my prediction that a human being will be killed by a black bear. CT came close last fall and made national news when an 11 year old boy in Morris, CT was attacked by a black bear. Thankfully he survived to tell the tale.

IT IS TIME to pass a bear hunting season.

Thank you.

Melanie Attwater-Young
Oakdale, CT (Senate District 20, House District 37)